



Research Data Alliance **Organisation and Governance**

Washington Meeting

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Juan Bicarregui/Ross Wilkinson

Science and Technology Facilities Council, UK

Contents



- What are we trying to achieve
- What kind of organisation is needed
- Outline Proposal for Organisational Structures
- Discussion

RDA Vision and Purpose

Vision

Researchers around the world

sharing and using research data without barriers.

Purpose

... to accelerate international

data-driven innovation and discovery

by facilitating research data

sharing and exchange,

use and re-use,

standards harmonization, and discoverability. ...

*through the development and adoption of **infrastructure,**
policy, practice, standards, and other deliverables.*

RDA Principles

Openness

- Membership is open to all interested organizations,
- all meetings are public,
- RDA processes are transparent, and
- all RDA products are freely available to the public;

Consensus

- The RDA moves forward by achieving consensus and
- resolves disagreements through appropriate voting mechanisms;

Balance

- The RDA is organized on the principle of balanced representation for individual organizations and stakeholder communities;

Harmonization

- The RDA works to achieve harmonization across standards, policies, technologies, tools, and other data infrastructure elements;

Voluntary

- The RDA is not a government organization or regulatory body and, instead, is a public body responsive to its members; and

Non-profit

- RDA is not a commercial organization and will not design, promote, endorse, or sell commercial products, technologies, or services.

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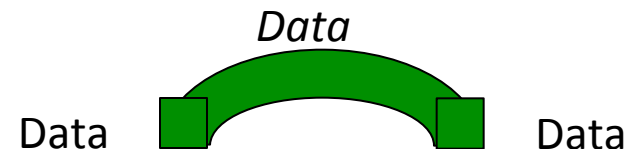
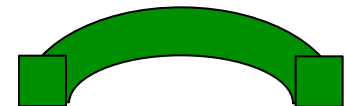
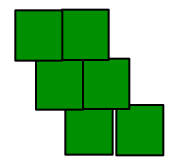
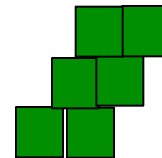
Research Data Alliance:

What does “*getting on with it*” mean?

- Developing the building blocks
- Building data bridges

which

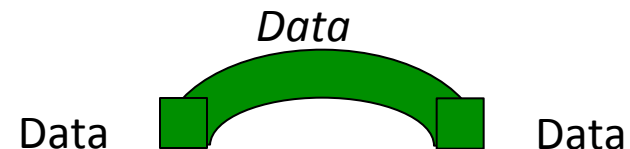
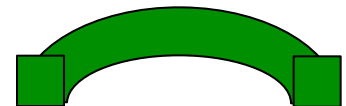
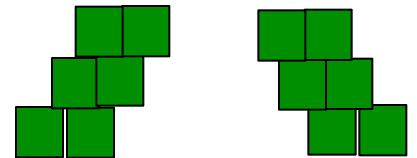
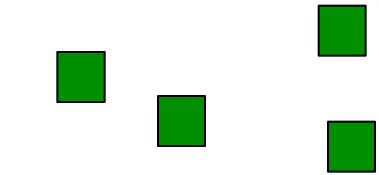
- Requires rough consensus
- Data exchange (equivalent of “running code”)



Research Data Alliance:

What sort of bridges?

- Bridges to the future – data preservation
- Bridges to research partners
- Bridges across disciplines
- Bridges across regions
- Bridges to integration – to solve new problems
- Bridges across communities



RDA role

Two bridges we can build:

- Connecting Data
- Connecting People

What kind of organisation do we need to do this?













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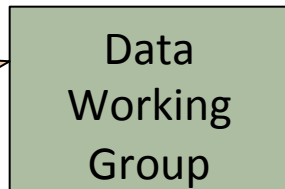
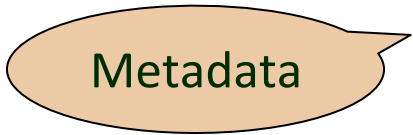
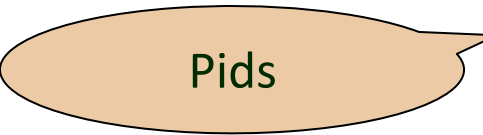
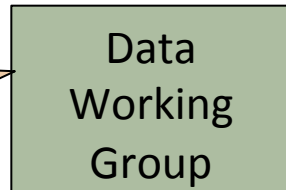
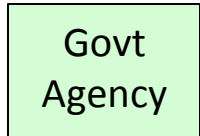
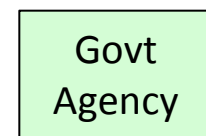
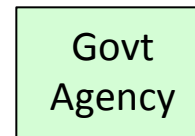
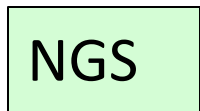
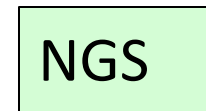
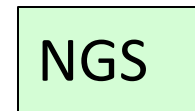
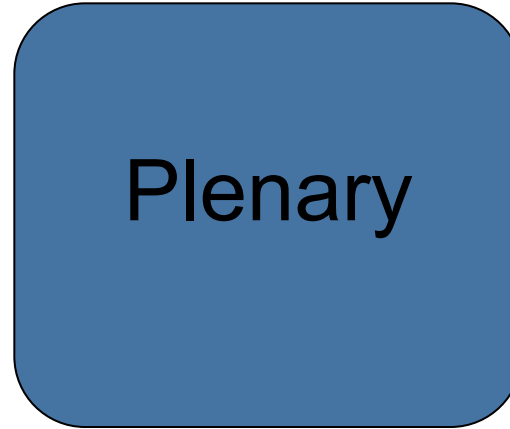




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Data Practitioners Domain

Working Groups

Plenary

Technical Advice Committee

Online Open Interaction Fora
- use for all kinds of activities, open to all RDA members

Administrative Domain

Administration and Management Team

Council

RDA Organization

- **Working Groups**

- carry out the technical work of the RDA.
- to achieve consensus on a technical matter.
- open to participation from anyone who volunteers
- operate to a defined objective and on a finite timeline
- disbanded upon completion of their original task
- members may be supported by their sponsors or self motivated.
- outputs may include documents, web resources, code and applications, tools, data sets, etc

Risks

- Standardisation is easy, I've done it a hundred times
(apologies to Mark Twain)
- Two easy ways to standardise:
 - The Imperial model
 - The Esperanto model
- Justify need, define benefit, target standardisation
- Make a small steps and reassess
- “Never generalise from one example”

RDA Organization

BoFs, Study Groups, (How do you plan and form WGs?)

- Discuss the need for the technical work in a particular area.
- May develop workplan for an area, or a new WG or other technical plan.
 - propose to Plenary
- Anyone may propose, need 5 (perhaps) seconders
- Participation is open to anyone
- May disband themselves or continue
- Members may be supported by their sponsors or self motivated.
- Outputs may include documents, web resources, code and applications, tools, data sets, etc

Data Practitioners Domain

Working Groups

- Carry out work of RDA
 - Reach consensus on outputs
 - May suggest BoFs about new topics
- Open to all but...
- some commitment expected

Plenary

Technical Advice Committee

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Online Open Interaction Fora

Administrative Domain

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RDA Organization

The **Plenary** meeting (How often?)

- Open to all persons involved in RDA
- Responsible for analyzing needs, identifying gaps,
- Establishes working groups
- Hears and comments on reports from WGs
- Suggests new BoFs
- Hears candidates for TAC
- Proposes action plans to the TAC and Council

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Technical Advice Committee

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RDA Organization

Do we need a **Technical Advisory Committee** ?

- Spot gaps and overlaps between WGs
- Advise on new WGs and new BoFs,
- Advise and endorse on quality of WG work and output
 - ?? to plenary which ‘approves’ ??
- Interact with and guide working groups
- ?? Give implementation suggestions to strategic direction from council ??

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Technical Advice Committee

- advise on WG work activities
- Interacting directly with working groups
- advise on new WGs and new BoFs
- Give implementation suggestions to strategic direction from council

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Online Open Interaction Fora

Administrative Domain

Administration and Management Team

Council

RDA Organization

The **Administration and Management team**

- Supports the activities of the WGs, Plenary and Council
 - including logistical, scheduling, and other support.
- Monitor and controls finances
- Arrange plenary meetings
- Run the on-line fora
- Publishing document
- Maybe some marketing
- Convene nominating committees for Council and TAC
- Prepare reports for council, funders,....

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Administrative Domain

Administration and Management Team

- Implement strategic direction set by council
- Supports the activities of the RDA
 - Arrange plenary meetings
 - Run the on-line for a
 - Manage documents
- Convene nominating committees for
 - Council and TAC
- Monitor and controls finances
- Prepare reports for
 - Council, funders,....

Council

- use for all kinds of activities, open to all RDA members

Online Open Interaction Fora

RDA Organization

The **Council**

- Set strategic direction
- Ultimate vote on governance matters
- Receives and decides on organizational recommendations
- Evidence of a consensus is a key factor in Council decision-making.
- Council members will be senior persons committed to enabling international research data infrastructures
 - not promoting any special interests, domains or disciplines
- ? Approve WGs or is that TAC ?

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- Prepare reports for
 - Council, funders,....

Council

- Set strategic direction
- Final vote on governance matters
- Approve new WGs (TAC advised)
- control balanced WG approach

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Types of Membership

Two types of membership

- **Individual members**
 - anyone can join
 - Participate in WGs (and TAC?)
- **Organisational members**
 - Requires commitment of resources
 - eg to support the secretariat and management team

Also need to work with complementary organisations

- **Affiliate partnerships**
 - How should this work?

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Some Example Discussion Questions

- Are the bodies right?
 - WGs (&BoFs), Plenary, TAC, Council, Management
 - Do we need more (or less)
 - Do they have the right functions?
- How should members of each body be chosen?
 - Who is eligible?
 - How are they chosen?
 - How long do they serve?
 - Can they be renewed?
- What about the Risks?
 - Imperial, Esperanto, one example, wheel reinvention....
- **Feedback please**
 - now and through website

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The End